

Wagging Tales

The unofficial newsletter for the small dogs and their people of Barkland Dog Park

Volume 2, Issue 2, March 2015



Spring Will Come ... Eventually

Most will agree that the winter of 2015 has felt like the worst in the history of winters. It's hard to believe it's really only been five snow-packed weeks.

Spring is on the schedule. Really. Truly. It's inevitable, but because of the bad weather and mountainous snow piles, it may be a while before Barkland reopens, according to Mary Chalmers Fountain, Lynn Mayoral Aid. There is no proposed date for the reopening, but she says new tags have been ordered and should be in by mid-March. For more information on passes, visit the [City of Lynn](#) web site.



Magnet Mapes and Benji Cyr look a bit despondent, knowing the dog park play season was nearing a close. One day soon, however, the benches will reappear from the snow banks that have kept them buried for what seems like history's longest winter.

So Who Won?



Sadly, no one won the treat box ... because no one entered the contest. Next time, make sure to get your entries in so that your pooch has a chance of a special prize. Stay tuned for the next contest date.

Spring Break



Spring break time is here ... even for *Wagging Tales*. Since the park will be reopening soon, this is the last issue of the newsletter until June. That will be the summer issue, and the winter publication schedule will resume in November. If there is any significant information to report between now and June — or between June and November — it will be relayed by email. Here's to warm weather!



Join the fun and beat the winter doldrums!

**North Shore Dog
Remaining Sunday Play Dates
March 8, March 22
11am to 12:45pm, \$5 per dog**

Has your pup been going stir crazy? Driving you nuts? Take advantage of the last two [North Shore Dog](#) play dates for the winter. With any luck, the snow will melt, and the dog park will reopen soon.

Does Your Dog Have Tear Stains?

If your dog has a light-colored coat or is a Maltese, lhasa apso, shi tzu, poodle or pug then there's a good chance you have noticed the deep red/brown discoloration underneath his eyes. Commonly referred to as "tear stains," they can be a result of epiphora, an overflow of tears onto the face. Epiphora can be caused by excessive tear production, insufficient tear drainage or a combination of both. It can be due to an infection or eye disorder, so it's a good idea to discuss it with your vet.

The actual red staining is the accumulation of a pigment called porphyrin that is found in the tears. They are naturally occurring molecules that contain iron and darken when the stains are exposed to sunlight.

In addition to being unsightly, tear stains can irritate your dog's skin. Several products are on the market that are supposed to remedy the problem. They can be ineffective and, in some cases, dangerous to your pet. There are a few things you can do that might help lessen their appearance:

- Feed a high-quality, balanced diet.
- Provide fresh, filtered drinking water.
- Replace plastic bowls with stainless steel, porcelain or glass dishes.
- Clean your dog's face regularly with a cotton ball soaked in colloidal silver (safe for dogs and available in health food stores). Alternatively, soak a cotton ball with saline contact lens solution (NOT eye drops) and wiping the stains.

Make sure you talk to your vet first to determine the cause of the staining.

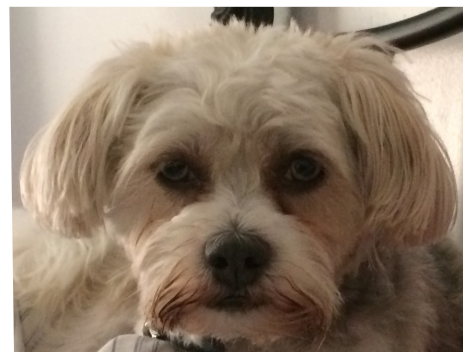
Do you have news or photos of you and your dog that you'd like to share? Is there a particular topic you'd like to have covered?

Email it by the first of the month to make it in the next issue. Send your email to:
pwehbi@yahoo.com

Beantown Pet Expo Date Set

Plymouth's South Shore Expo Center is set to host the [2015 Beantown Pet Expo](#) on Saturday, April 18, from 10am to 6pm. More than 100 local vendors will be on hand for this free event to share the newest pet products and services. Watch agility demonstrations, adopt a sister or brother for your dog, or just get some great advice from groomers, vets, retailers and trainers. You can also enter your dog in a talent or costume contest. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome with proof of current vaccinations.

The event draws a large crowd every year, and if your dog gets aggressive or anxious in crowds, you might want to leave him or her at home. You're guaranteed to go home with free samples, from treats to toys. You can also register at the prize table for raffle prizes from a large variety of vendors.



Finn McKool has suffered from tear stains his entire life.

Recipe for Rover

Peanut Butter & Bacon Treats

Ingredients:

- 1c natural creamy peanut butter
- 3/4c nonfat milk
- 1 large egg (or 1/4c unsweetened apple sauce)
- 2c whole wheat flour
- 1T baking powder
- 1/3c oats (rolled or instant)
- 2-3 strips cooked bacon, chopped

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats and set aside.

In a large bowl, gently mix the peanut butter, milk and egg with a spatula. Switch to a whisk to make sure there are no lumps. Add the flour and baking powder. You might need to turn the dough out on the counter or a board and work it with your hands. Mix in the oats and bacon.

The dough will be thick and heavy. Use a rolling pin and roll it into 1/4 in thickness. Use cookie cutters or a knife to cut into shapes. Arrange the treats on the baking sheets and bake for 18-20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove, flip and bake for 10-12 minutes longer. Cool completely and store in fridge for a week or in the freezer for up to two months.



My best friend and inspiration for Wagging Tales, Finn McKool turns four on March 5.

Happy Birthday!

Cheers to our March birthday pup:

Finn McKool Wehbi — March 5

Wagging Tales

Editor
Pam Wehbi

Associate Editor/Inspiration
Finn McKool